In other countries, the Union Government, the Federal Government, would compensate the civic amenity taxes. Will you consider the same system here also?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The present system over here is we don't charge anything from any embassy.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I would like to know whether the local bodies, like NDMC or other municipal corporations, can charge taxes as per their determination from the Central Government establishments or not. Sir, this is an important question, which pertains to the Centre-State financial relations also.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: If they charge, the Central Government pays the fees of the NDMC that are charged to the Central Government, which is according to the rules and regulations.

Revival of NTC Mills

*250. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the revival of NTC Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Madras (APKK&M) Mills;

(b) the date on which the revival period expires as per the BIFR order;

(c) whether Government propose to fulfil its commitment in the BIFR revival package order within the stipulated period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken for the payment under VRS to surplus workers in the reviving mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In accordance with the provisions of rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by BIFR, 10 viable mills are made fully functional and 6 unviable mills are closed after giving VRS to the employees. Sale of surplus land and machinery has started.

(b) The implementation period is taken as two years to expire on March 31, 2004.

(c) The Government is committed to complete the revival process within the prescribed period.

(d) The Government has so far taken following steps for revival of NTC (APKKM):

Modernisation Plans for the 10 viable mills prepared and tenders for purchase of the machinery have been invited.

Gave 'in principle' approval for capital restructuring consisting of – waiver of interest on loans of Rs. 111.43 Cr; and conversion of loan to equity of Rs. 134.84 Cr.

Unencumbered assets of NTC by settling the dues of Secured Creditors through One Time Settlement (OTS) at a cost of Rs. 67.37 Crores.

VRS scheme modified to offer greater benefit to the workers whose wages were not revised for a long time.

Rs. 68.08 Crores was raised through Bonds guaranteed by Government and VRS benefit given to 2018 employees.

Asset Sale Committee has been constituted, assets valued and permissions of State Governments obtained for the sale of the surplus assets.

VRS to surplus workers in the revival mills would be considered only after covering all the employees in the unviable mills for closure.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I thank the Government for giving an assurance that the revival process will be completed within the prescribed time, that is, by 31.3.2004. The said period is expiring on 31.4.2004. The viable mills, specifically the five NTC mills in Kerala, are facing severe crises due to the shortage of working capital. I know personally, Sir, that the Parvati Mills in Kollam is not able to move further because of the acute shortage of the working capital. According to the answer given by the Government, the revival process will be completed by 31.3.2004, and only eight more months are left. By that time, probably, I think, all those viable mills would be closed down due to the acute shortage of working capital. I have written so many letters to the Minister regarding the working capital.

My specific question to the hon. Minister is whether the Government will consider giving working capital, or any financial assistance, so as to run these mills as viable, at least, till the revival period is over.

श्री बसनगौड़ा आर॰ पाटील: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य की वर्किंग कैपिटल के बारे में जो भावना है, वह सही है, लेकिन सरकार ने वर्किंग कैपिटल के लिए अभी बीस करोड़ रुपये की कपास कॉटन कार्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया से प्रचेज़ करने की व्यवस्था करवाई है। केरल के संबंध में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि कन्नानूर के लिए स्टेट बैंक ऑफ् इंडिया जो हमको वर्किंग कैपिटल देता है माही के लिए केनरा बैंक, केरला लक्ष्मी के लिए पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, अलगप्पा मिल के लिए स्टेट बैंक ऑफ् त्रिवेन्द्रम, पार्वती मिल के लिए पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, विजय मोहिनी के लिए स्टेट बैंक ऑफ् त्रिवेन्द्रम जो पैसा देता है, वह जितना रेक्वायर्ड है, उतना तो नहीं है, लेकिन इसके लिए हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं, उनके साथ चर्चा भी कर रहे हैं और ज्यादा करने के लिए भी चिंतित हैं। हमको तीन महीने तक इसकी आशा है, क्योंकि पाज़िटिव रेसपांस उनकी तरफ से आई है। वाएब्ल मिल्ज़ के लिए 31.03.2004 तक का जो हमने वायदा किया है उसके लिए हम जरूर वर्किंग कैपिटल की व्यवस्था करेंगे।

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Thank you very much, Sir. Before the BIFR, we are also parties before the BIFR, and we had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the assurance given by the Government that VRS would be given to the workers of both, the viable and unviable mills, simultaneously. This was the assurance given by the Government, Ministry of Textiles, before the BIFR. Based on this, we entered into the Memorandum of Understanding. But, instead of revival, so many benefits have been taken away. But, still, what the Government is doing is, they are only giving VRS to workers in the closed mills. That is a violation of the assurance given before the BIFR that VRS will also be given to the viable mills. My supplementary is, whether the Government will consider giving VRS to the surplus workers in the viable mills also so that it can be made more feasible in future. Thank you.

श्री बसनगौड़ा आर॰ पाटील: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बीआईएफआर के बारे में कहा, जो उनकी कंडीशन है वह सही नहीं है। यह तो बीआईएफआर की कंडीशन ऐसी है कि पहले हम अनवाइबल मिल्स के लिए वीआरएस देंगे और फिर अनवाइबल मिल्स के कर्मचारियों को वीआरएस देने के बाद हम तुरंत ही वाइबल मिल्स में जो सरप्लस कर्मचारी हैं उनके लिए भी सोचेंगे।

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister: how many sick textile mills are there under the N.T.C. mills and how many mills are identified under B.I.F.R. for revival in Tamil Nadu? And, how many mills have so far been fully revived and the number of mills declared unviable in Tamil Nadu?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is limited only to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: No, Sir. It is also relating to Tamil Nadu—Madras.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you putting supplementary on behalf of the entire country?

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: No, Sir. But, I want to know about the points that have been raised by me.

श्री बसनगौड़ा आर॰ पाटील: सभापति जी, पूरे देश में एनटीसी की 119 मिलें हैं, उसमें से 66 मिलों को बीआईएफआर ने अनवाइबल घोषित किया है और 53 मिल वाइबल घोषित की हैं।

Royalty given to States

*251. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of royalty given to the States for mining of coal and lignite separately;

(b) the balance of royalty due to be paid to Tamil Nadu for mining lignite at Neyveli; and

(c) when the royalty for lignite was last revised?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The quantum of royalty given to the States by Coal India Limited (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) for mining coal and lignite separately in the year 2002-2003 was Rs. 2520.87 crore & Rs.93.12 crore respectively.